

REMARKS

At the time of the last Office Action in the present application, claims 8-54 were pending in the application. Of those claims, claims 8, 31 and 43 were independent claims.

In the last Office Action, all of the claims 1-54 were finally rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over FLETCHER-HAYNES et al. (2001/0034614) in view of OTWORTH et al. (2002/0059030).

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Michael Tomaszewski and his Supervisory Primary Examiner Luke Gilligan for the courteous and productive interview with applicants' counsel, Daniel M. Riess, at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on December 12, 2006. Due to a medical emergency, Mr. Riess has asked the undersigned to sign this Amendment on his behalf.

As discussed during the interview, the present invention is directed to a system, computer readable medium and method for managing inventory of blood component collection soft goods and preventing the use of such soft goods which have been quarantined. Blood component collection soft goods typically come in a sealed package and provide the equipment for the collection of the blood or blood components from the donor, such as tubing,

needles, containers and solutions needed for that purpose. See paragraphs 0392-3. Some of such soft goods packages may become quarantined for any one of a number of possible reasons, such as previous opening, becoming damaged, have passed the use date or which have been superseded by upgraded soft goods.

FLETCHER-HAYNES discloses a computerized blood collection system which is designed to optimize and maximize the yield of desired blood components, such as platelets, plasma and red blood cells. See the abstract and paragraphs 0162 and 0195. Disposable tubing such as may be utilized during the blood collection may also be identified and recorded (paragraph 0083), tubing size type and bag identifiers may be recorded (paragraph 0125) presumably to be able to determine which tubing was used with a given donor, and the type of tubing may be placed in the final report (paragraph 0166). However, there is no disclosure or suggestion whatsoever in FLETCHER-HAYNES of inventorying any of the blood component collection soft goods or of quarantining such blood component collection soft goods. FLETCHER-HAYNES is absolutely silent in those aspects.

During the interview, the position previously taken in the final rejection that a blood component (e.g. platelets,

red blood cells, stem cells, white blood cells, plasma) read on "blood component collection soft good" was reconsidered and it was agreed that it would be withdrawn.

Recognizing that FLETCHER-HAYNES clearly does not disclose or suggest quarantining of anything, OTWORTH et al. was relied upon for its showing of a system for remotely testing a subject and deciding whether to quarantine the subject based on the test results, citing paragraph 0222 and Fig. 16 of OTWORTH et al. for the proposition that at least a portion of the blood component collection soft good inventory is quarantined. However, as pointed out during the interview, paragraph 0222 is simply directed to the remote testing of water at a lake intake for contamination and no mention is made of Fig. 16. Fig. 16 is described in paragraph 0212. However in that paragraph, the only discussion is that animals may be tested at a port of entry or that sources of drinking water may be tested for disease and quarantined if diseased. However there is absolutely no disclosure or suggestion whatsoever in OTWORTH et al. of anything concerning blood, blood collection or blood collection soft goods. Accordingly, even when FLETCHER-HAYNES has been modified by the disclosure of OTWORTH et al, the resulting combination includes no disclosure or suggestion of the inventorying of

blood collection soft goods or the quarantining of such soft goods as called for in all of the claims.

At the close of the interview, it was agreed that if independent claims 8, 31 and 43 were amended as they have been amended herein, the application should be in condition for allowance, unless more pertinent prior art than that currently of record is found on an updated search.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims remaining in the present application, claims 8-54, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance are requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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James S. Pristelski  
Registration No. 27,222

COOK, ALEX, MCFARRON, MANZO,  
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.  
200 West Adams Street - #2850  
Chicago, IL 60606  
Tel (312) 236-8500  
Fax (312) 236-8176

Customer No. 26568